

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF WEST VIRGINIA  
MARTINSBURG**

**MARK WATKINS,**

Petitioner,

**v.**

**CIVIL ACTION NO.: 3:20-CV-87  
(GROH)**

**R. HUDGINS, Warden,**

Respondent.

**ORDER ADOPTING THE MAGISTRATE JUDGE'S  
REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION**

Currently before the Court is a Report and Recommendation ("R&R") entered by United States Magistrate Judge Robert W. Trumble on November 5, 2021. ECF No. 12. Pursuant to Rule 2 of the Local Rules of Prisoner Litigation Procedure, this action was referred to Magistrate Judge Trumble for submission of an R&R. Magistrate Judge Trumble recommends that this Court dismiss Mark Watkins's ("Petitioner's") Petition without prejudice. The Petitioner timely filed objections to the R&R. ECF No. 14.

**I. BACKGROUND**

On June 2, 2020, the Petitioner filed a Petition listing three grounds for relief. ECF No. 1. The Petitioner asserts that he should be able to see the Parole Commission under the old law; he should have been sentenced under the 1986 sentencing guidelines; and that he was not allowed to plead guilty one charge and not guilty to another. Upon reviewing the record, the Court finds that the background and facts as explained in the

R&R appropriately describe the circumstances underlying the Petitioner's claims. For ease of review, the Court incorporates those facts in this Order.

## **II. LEGAL STANDARDS**

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(c), this Court is required to make a de novo review of those portions of the magistrate judge's findings to which objection is made. That said, the Court need not review, under a de novo or any other standard, the factual or legal conclusions of the magistrate judge as to those portions of the findings or recommendation to which no objections are addressed. Thomas v. Arn, 474 U.S. 140, 150 (1985). Further, failure to file timely objections waives de novo review and the Petitioner's right to appeal this Court's Order. 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1); Snyder v. Ridenour, 889 F.2d 1363, 1366 (4th Cir.1989); United States v. Schronce, 727 F.2d 91, 94 (4th Cir.1984). Pursuant to this Court's local rules, "written objections shall identify each portion of the magistrate judge's recommended disposition that is being challenged and shall specify the basis for each objection." LR PL P 12(b). The local rules also prohibit objections that "exceed ten (10) typewritten pages or twenty (20) handwritten pages, including exhibits, unless accompanied by a motion for leave to exceed the page limitation." LR PL P 12(d).

"When a party does make objections, but these objections are so general or conclusory that they fail to direct the district court to any specific error by the magistrate judge, de novo review is unnecessary." Green v. Rubenstein, 644 F. Supp. 2d 723, 730 (S.D. W. Va. 2009) (citing Orpiano v. Johnson, 687 F.2d 44, 47 (4th Cir. 1982)). "When only a general objection is made to a portion of a magistrate judge's report-recommendation, the Court subjects that portion of the report-recommendation to only a

clear error review.” Williams v. New York State Div. of Parole, No. 9:10-CV-1533 (GTS/DEP), 2012 WL 2873569, at \*2 (N.D.N.Y. July 12, 2012). “Similarly, when an objection merely reiterates the same arguments made by the objecting party in its original papers submitted to the magistrate judge, the Court subjects that portion of the report-recommendation challenged by those arguments to only a clear error review.” Taylor v. Astrue, 32 F. Supp. 3d 253, 260-61 (N.D.N.Y. 2012).

Courts have also held that when a party’s objection lacks adequate specificity, the party waives that objection. See Mario v. P & C Food Markets, Inc., 313 F.3d 758, 766 (2d Cir. 2002) (finding that even though a party filed objections to the magistrate judge’s R&R, they were not specific enough to preserve the claim for review). Bare statements “devoid of any reference to specific findings or recommendations . . . and unsupported by legal authority, [are] not sufficient.” Mario 313 F.3d at 766. Pursuant to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and this Court’s Local Rules, “referring the court to previously filed papers or arguments does not constitute an adequate objection.” Id.; See also Fed. R. Civ. P. 72(b); LR PL P 12. Finally, the Fourth Circuit has long held, “[a]bsent objection, we do not believe that any explanation need be given for adopting [an R&R].” Camby v. Davis, 718 F.2d 198, 200 (4th Cir. 1983) (finding that without an objection, no explanation is required of the district court when adopting an R&R).

### III. DISCUSSION

Upon review of all the filings, the Court finds that the Petitioner has presented no new material facts or arguments in his objections to the magistrate judge’s R&R. The Petitioner’s objections reiterate the arguments presented to the magistrate judge in his Petition. See ECF No. 1. Thus, the Court finds that de novo review is not required because


the Petitioner's objections present no new legal arguments, and the factual presentation was properly considered by the magistrate judge in his R&R. See Taylor, 32 F. Supp. 3d 253, 260-61.

#### IV. CONCLUSION

Finding that Magistrate Judge Trumble's R&R carefully considers the record and applies the appropriate legal analysis, it is the opinion of this Court that Magistrate Judge Trumble's Report and Recommendation [ECF No. 12] should be, and is, hereby **ORDERED ADOPTED** for the reasons more fully stated in it. The Petitioner's Petition is **DISMISSED WITHOUT PREJUDICE**. ECF No. 1. This case is **ORDERED STRICKEN** from the Court's active docket.

The Clerk of Court is **DIRECTED** to transmit copies of this Order to all counsel of record and to the *pro se* Petitioner, by certified mail, at his last known address as reflected upon the docket sheet.

**DATED:** March 15, 2023

  
GINA M. GROH  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE